

CONFIDENTIAL

ACTION

JMW ESA297JJC447
 7 RUCMHR
 E RUSBLK 5328 173407
 NY CCCCC ZZH
 020350Z JUL 76
 FM AMEMBASSY KABUL
 TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 7647
 INFO RUSBGD/AMEMBASSY DELAY 7343
 RUEHMO/AMEMBASSY MOSCOW 1407
 RUSSOR/AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI 5594
 RUCMHR/AMEMBASSY TEHRAN 6349
 BT
 C O N F I D E N T I A L KABUL 5308

201

(11)

ACTION:
POL3

INFO:
AMB
ICM
ECONC
PH

ICA
SHIRAZ
CRUZ
TRAB

R 3 0

E.O. 11652: GDS
 TAGS: PINT, PEPR, IR, AF
 SUBJECT: NEW AFGHAN AMBASSADOR TO IRAN IS ANOTHER HIGH-RANKING
 PARACHANIST

REF: TEHRAN 5250 (NOTAL)

1. WE HAVE LITTLE TO ADD TO THE BIOGRAPHIC INFORMATION ON
 THE YOUTHFUL DR. NAJIB, WHO FORMERLY USED THE NAME SYED
 NAJIBULLAH, CONTAINED IN THE OFFICIAL ANNOUNCEMENT OF HIS
 APPOINTMENT AS AFGHAN ENVOY TO TEHRAN (REFTEL). HE REPORTEDLY
 IS ONLY ONE YEAR OUT OF MEDICAL SCHOOL, AND WAS THE DEPUTY
 MINISTER OF INTERIOR FOR A FEW WEEKS FOLLOWING THE APRIL 27
 REVOLUTION. IN THE SUBSEQUENT JOCKEYING FOR POSITIONS (WHICH
 OBVIOUSLY IS CONTINUING), NAJIB, A MEMBER OF THE FORMER
 PARACHAN WING OF THE PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC PARTY OF AFGHANISTAN,
 BECAME A "SPECIAL ASSISTANT" TO REVOLUTIONARY COUNCIL
 CHAIRMAN MOOR MOHAMMAD TARAKI, AN APPOINTMENT THAT WAS
 NEVER MADE PUBLIC.

2. NAJIB'S SELECTION FOR TEHRAN IS UNQUESTIONABLY PART OF
 THE ONGOING PURGE OF PARACHANISTS FROM THE UPPER LEVELS OF
 THE NEW REGIME'S POLITICAL LEADERSHIP. OF THE SIX AFGHAN
 AMBASSADORS FOR WHOM AGREEMENT HAS DEFINITELY BEEN ASEXED, NOT
 ONE IS A KNOWN MALICIST, WHILE FIVE ARE CONFIRMED PARACHANISTS.
 THE FUTURE OF DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER BABRAK KHADEMI, LEADER OF THE
 FORMER PARACHAN TOPS THE LIST OF RUMORS IN KABUL. AND THE
 FAVORITE VERSION NOW IS THAT HE HAS REFUSED TO ACCEPT A POST
 ABROAD AND WILL REMAIN IN KABUL COME WHAT MAY. IN THIS
 CONNECTION, WE CONTINUE TO SEE NO SIGNS THAT THIS PARTICULAR
 EPISODE HAS RESULTED IN ANY HEIGHTENED SECURITY MEASURES IN THE
 CAPITAL, BUT THE REGIME'S SENSE OF URGENCY IN REQUESTING MOST
 COUNTRY AGREEMENT FOR THESE AMBASSADORS COULD INDICATE THAT
 TARAKI AND HIS COLLEAGUES PREFER TO HAVE THEIR RIVALS OUT OF
 AFGHANISTAN PROMPT. AN IRANIAN DIPLOMAT TOLD US THAT THREE DAYS
 AFTER NAJIB'S NAME WAS SUBMITTED TO THE IRANIAN GOVERNMENT,
 AMBASSADOR DAUOUDI WAS CALLED TO THE MFA AND ASKED, "WHY THE DELAY?"
 HE BUT APPARENTLY ACCEPTED THE INEVITABLE, AND GRANTED
 AGREEMENT WITHIN TWO DAYS.

AMSTUTZ

BT

CONFIDENTIAL